

INFORMATION REPORT

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Argentina

CD NO.

SUBJECT Expulsions from the Communist Party of Argentina

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1. The Communist Party of Argentina (CPA) underwent a severe purge during March 1949. The expulsion of numerous members in the past few months coupled with this latest purge has caused a certain amount of uneasiness within the Party. It is estimated that approximately 1500 members have been expelled from the CPA, the majority of them in the Territory of Chubut and the city of Berisso in Buenos Aires Province, where many Slavs, particularly Yugoslavs, reside.
2. Approximately 300 members were expelled from the CPA in the Federal Capital. It is believed that the dissident group of Communists headed by Aurelio Bracco,* who favors cooperation with the Peron government, was partially responsible for this action. Many of those ejected from the Buenos Aires branch of the Party belong to the railway workers' union La Fraternidad. The most important member expelled in Buenos Aires was the writer Cordoba Iturburu, who has not participated in Party activities for some months. Iturburu was charged with having been in contact with Peronists elements.
3. In the Chubut Territory a deep schism exists between the pro-Tito and pro-Cominform elements which was caused principally by the expulsion of Jose Stemberg from the Party. Stemberg, who formerly served as secretary general of the Committee of Comodoro Rivadavia and as president of the Chubut Territorial Committee, had allegedly defended Tito's position in a Yugoslavia Libre meeting. Diego Jara, also a member of the Territorial Committee of Chubut, was expelled from the CPA at the same time as Stemberg.

*Gf

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